

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03238 080314Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /023 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7348

UNCLAS BOGOTA 3238

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ENRG, CO
SUBJ: ELECTRIC POWER: EARLY WARNING: CUCUTA THERMAL GENER-
ATION PLANT

1. DURING MEETING WITH HIGH OFFICIALS OF ICEL (COLOMBIAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY), COMMATT INFORMED THAT FEASIBILITY STUDIES ARE IN PROGRESS FOR INSTALLATION OF 132 MEGAWATT THERMAL ELECTRIC INSTALLATION NEAR CUCUTA IN THE STATE OF NORTE DE SANTANDER. PLANT WILL BE FUELED BY COAL FROM RESERVES IN THE REGION (ICEL IS NOW DETERMINING EXTENT OF RESERVES). PLANT WILL DOUBLE GENERATION CAPACITY IN NORTE DE SANTANDER STATE, AND PLANT NOW EXPECTED TO BE IN OPERATION BY 1984. STUDIES AND DESIGNS, FINANCED AND FUNDED IN THE AMOUNT OF 1 MILLION DOLLARS BY FONADE (GOC DEVELOPMENT FUND), EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF 1978.

2. ICEL ALSO PLANNING CONSTRUCTION OF TWO TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS TO BE OPERATIONAL IN 1981 AND 1982. THE FIRST WILL BE 220 VOLT, 18 KILOMETER LINE CONNECTING CUCUTA WITH SAN ANTONIO DE TACHIRA IN VENEZUELA. THE SECOND WILL BE A DOUBLE, 220 VOLT, 70 KILOMETER LINEMAEMYX. NORTE DE SANTANDER ELECTRIC COMPANY IS 90 PERCENT OWNED BY ICEL. GENERATION CAPACITY OF COMPANY IS 60 MEGAWATTS,
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ALMOST ALL OF WHICH IS THERMAL. AT THE END OF 1976 FIRM HAD MORE THAN 60 THOUSAND CUSTOMERS AND IN THAT YEAR SOLD \$1.6 MILLION WORTH OF ENERGY. FIRM'S SALES HAVE INCREASED AT AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 30 PERCENT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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